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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,637	01/24/2006	Wieslaw Jedynski	32860000985US	5509

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EXAMINER

ZARROLI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/565,637

Applicant(s)

JEDYNSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael C. Zarroli

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/24/06, 2/15/06, 4/7/06</u> .                                | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the embodiments described in claims 10 & 11 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified

and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to because insulated materials should be shown with alternating thick and thin lines. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: In line two, the phrase “at least one of into and onto” is missing something. Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claims 10-11 & 17-18 objected to because of the following informalities: Antecedent problem with “a mating plug in connection apparatus.” Appropriate correction is required.
5. Claim 12 objected to because of the following informalities: Antecedent problem with “unlocking **element.**” Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-8, 10-11, 14-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Nabeshima et al.

Nabeshima discloses a plug-in connection apparatus fig. 1 for plugging at least one of into and onto a mating plug-in connection apparatus to electrically connect

electrical modules (preamble intended use statement, given little weight), comprising: a housing 1; and at least one locking device 15, serving to mechanically couple the plug-in connection apparatus 1 to the mating plug-in connection apparatus 2, being movable between a locked position fig. 15 and an unlocked position fig. 11 and being integrally connected to the housing fig. 1, the locking device including an unlocking element 15a/b which, in the unlocked position, engages in a mating element fig. 13, arranged on the housing, which complements the unlocking element so that the locking device 15 is fixable in the unlocked position (figures 11 & 13).

Claims 2, 4, 15 Nabeshima discloses that the locking device 15 includes a locking hook/unlocking hook 15a and locking/unlocking eye 15b.

Claims 3 & 14 Nabeshima discloses that the locking device 15 includes an end 11a connected to the housing fig. 15 allowing the device to be resilient fig. 14.

Claims 5, 16 Nabeshima discloses that the unlocking element 15a/b, and the mating element engage in such a way fig. 13 that the unlocking element automatically disengages from the mating element when the plug-in connection apparatus is inserted into the mating plug-in connection apparatus (figures 11-15).

Claim 6 Nabeshima discloses that the locking device 15 resiliently mounted on the housing in such a way that it is prestressed toward the locked position fig. 15, so

that the locking device automatically snaps fig. 14 into the locked position when the plug-in connection apparatus is inserted into the mating plug-in connection apparatus.

Claims 7 & 8 Nabeshima discloses that the free end of the locking hook includes an edge (above 15a in fig. 13), which is inclined essentially in the direction of the insertion movement (figures 14 to 15) of the plug-in connection apparatus into the mating plug-in connection apparatus where the edge adjoins a projection of the locking hook fig. 13 which projection engages on the connector in the locked position fig. 15.

Claims 10-11 & 17-18 Nabeshima discloses that the plug in connection apparatus and mating plug in connection apparatus correspond to both a socket and/or connector (fig. 11 shows 1 and 2 as either).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor

and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nabeshima et al.

Nabeshima discloses a locking device but not one on opposite sides of the housing. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add another locking device to the housing of Nabeshima. The motivation for this is well known in the art and would be to allow for a more secure mating especially when larger components are used. Well settled case law has shown that merely duplicating a part for a multiple effect is not grounds for a patent, *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 671, 124 USPQ 378, 380 (CCPA 1960)

11. Claims 12 & 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nabeshima et al.



Nabeshima discloses a method for connecting a plug in connection apparatus to the mating plug in connection apparatus, but not disconnection between the two.

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to reverse the locking method of Nabeshima so that the components would unlock in the reverse from the way they locked. The motivation for this would be to take the connection apart for one of many reasons.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T.C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Michael C. Zarroli  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

MCZ  
MCZ